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ABSTRACT

The background material and activities in this publication will help prepare high school students to exercise their right to vote. Although written specifically for use in South Carolina, the publication can easily be adapted for use by teachers in other states. Examples of the different kinds of materials and activities follow. One activity discusses the requirements for voting in South Carolina in state and local elections. Regulations are listed and an application for registration is provided. Students set up mock registration. Students also arrange for a member of the County Board of Registration to come to the school and actually register all eligible students. Another activity presents facts to discuss concerning primary, municipal, and general elections. Students study and discuss an official ballot for a general election in South Carolina. Absentee voting is the topic of another activity. Facts to discuss are presented. Students complete an application for absentee voter registration. The materials and activities in the last section of the publication urge students to take the time to prepare themselves to be responsible voters. Facts to discuss and discussion questions are presented. Many activities are suggested. For example, students are asked to interview local candidates to form their own campaign organization for a candidate who is running for reelection to a public office, to set up a model legislature and introduce a bill to solve a problem which they have researched, and to write an inauguration speech on being elected the President of the United States. (Author/RM)

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STUDENTS Who Are 18 Or Soon Will Be

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

HELP THEM PREPARE TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE

PROJECT 18

Developed by
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Curriculum Section

SD 013995

SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHARLIE G. WILLIAMS, STATE SUPERINTENDENT
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

1982

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A PREPARED VOTER

The right to vote is probably the most fundamental and cherished of all privileges in our democracy. With the ratification of the 26th Amendment to our Federal Constitution, the students who are now eighteen years of age, or very soon will be, could exercise a major influence on the forward course of our state and nation.

I have every confidence in your ability to help our students prepare themselves for responsible participation in the election process. This project has been designed to assist you with that important responsibility.

Charlie G. Williams
State Superintendent of Education

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Grateful acknowlegment is made to Mr. James B. Ellisor, Executive Director, South Carolina Election Commission and to Mr. James F. Hendrix, Training Coordinator, South Carolina Election Commission, who gave so freely of their time in checking the legal statements for voting and in making revisions.

Howard Y. Thomas
Social Studies Consultant

HOW TO VOTE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

YOUR STUDENTS MAY VOTE — IF —

Amendment 26

Section 1. Eighteen-year-olds may vote.

The rights of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of age.

Section 2. Enforcement.

The congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Discuss with students the amendment. Make sure they understand that it does not say that because one is an American citizen and has reached the age of eighteen or older he automatically has the right to vote. Each state has certain requirements which each would-be voter must meet before he or she may cast a ballot.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR FURTHER STUDY, DISCUSSION AND PRACTICE

1. How is our Federal Constitution amended? What do students see as advantages or disadvantages to these procedures?
2. Was South Carolina one of the states ratifying the 26th Amendment? If so, when? If the amendment were to be ratified today, do students think it would pass?
3. How is the South Carolina State Constitution amended? Is this procedure more or less effective than the federal procedure.
4. Secure a copy of our State Constitution from the South Carolina Legislative Council. Let students compare its length with that of the Federal. What makes the difference?
5. How many times has our Federal Constitution been amended? Why?

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS?

Each would-be voter in South Carolina

1. Must be a citizen of South Carolina and the United States.
2. Must be eighteen years of age or older.
3. Must be a resident of the county and polling precinct in which he or she will vote.
4. Must have been registered for at least 30 days before any election.
5. (a) Must have never been convicted of a felony.

   or

   (b) Must have served entire sentence, including all probation and parole time, or have been legally pardoned.

STUDENTS MAY HAVE MET ALL THE PRECEDING QUALIFICATIONS, BUT STILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE UNLESS THEY

REGISTER

IN SUFFICIENT TIME — BEFORE UPCOMING ELECTIONS THEREFORE, PREPARE EIGHTEEN-YEAR OLDS TO REGISTER BY COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS:

1. The new voter must appear before the County Board of Registration, usually located in the courthouse, County Office Building, or at a special registration place set up for the convenience of applicants.
2. The TIME element is all-important, and yet our state law is most liberal in granting registration certificates. A person can register to vote at any time during normal courthouse hours in his or her county; however, a registration certificate issued less than 30 days before any election shall not be valid for such election, but such certificate shall be valid in any other election. (Sec. 7-5-220 S.C. Code of Laws).

In other words, the law says to any and all that to be eligible to vote in any election, the voter must possess a registration certificate dated at least thirty days prior to the day of election. The Attorney General has ruled that "persons who will come of age or complete qualifications during the thirty-day period of the closing of the books before an election may apply for registration during the sixty-day period preceding such closing." (1964-65 Ops. Atty. Gen. 1935, p. 235, also 7-5-180.)

3. Registration may take place during office hours. This normally would be 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Again note, however, that one must register at least thirty days prior to an election to vote in that election.

4. Now that the student is ready to register, he must make written application on the formal Application for Registration. (see Figure #1)

   Let each student take time now to study the application form as printed.

5. Having completed the application, a member of the registration board shall administer the oath required. The applicant will receive a voting certificate completed and signed by at least one member of the board of registration, if the Board determines that he meets all the qualifications to vote. This certificate will be good as long as the voter votes at least one time every two years. (see Figure #2)

6. If the voter moves and by this move changes counties or precincts, he must reregister to be eligible to vote. This registration must also be made at least thirty days prior to any election. If the voter moves during the thirty day period he may vote in his previous precinct for that one time.

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State of South Carolina
APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

For Registration Board Use Only

(Disapproved)
(Approved) _____ Registration Board
(County)

By _____
Member of Board

_____ 19 ____
Date

Dated at _____, S.C. _____ day of _____ 19____

1. I, _____
Last Name First Name Middle Initial

hereby apply for registration as an elector and certify under oath that the following information is correct:

Sex _____ Hair _____ Eyes _____

Weight _____ Height _____ Race _____

Social Security No. _____

Or Other Identification No.

(If None, So State) _____

2. My occupation is _____
I was born at

_____
City County State

on _____
Date

I reside at _____
Street or RFD

in the City or Town of _____
(Inside City Limits Yes ☐ No ☐)

in _____ Township or Parish

in _____ County.

My voting precinct is _____

3. I am not now under a court order declaring me mentally incompetent or confined in any public prison.

4. I will demonstrate to the registration board that:

☐ (a) I can read and write a section of the Constitution of South Carolina; or

☐ (b) I am otherwise qualified.

☐ 5. I am a resident of South Carolina, this County and in the voting precinct at which I will be entitled to vote if a Registration Certificate is issued to me upon this application.

☐ 6. (a) I have never been convicted of a felony.

☐ (b) I have been convicted of a felony.

Date of Conviction _____ _____
month year

the criminal offense convicted of was _____

_____

The total length of my sentence was _____
number of years or months

☐ (c) I have served my entire sentence, including all probation and parole time, or I have been legally pardoned for such conviction.

7. I was last registered in _____
Precinct

_____, _____
County State

8. My mailing address is _____

_____

_____

_____

WHOEVER SHALL, WILFULLY AND KNOWINGLY, SWEAR FALSELY IN TAKING ANY OATH REQUIRED BY LAW, ADMINISTERED BY ANY PERSON DIRECTED OR PERMITTED BY LAW TO ADMINISTER SUCH OATH, SHALL BE GUILTY OF PERJURY AND, ON CONVICTION, INCUR THE PAINS AND PENALTIES OF THAT OFFENSE.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 19_____

_____
Member, Deputy Member or Clerk of Registration Board

_____
Applicant

Figure #1

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

This is to Certify that:

(LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL)

Sex____ Hair_____ Eyes_____ Wt.____ Ht._____ Race_____

Social Security or Identification No._____ — — _____

is a Registered Elector of _____ County

Resides at _____ In the

STREET

city or town of _____ or in

_____ Township or Parish, and is Entitled

to Vote in _____ Precinct

FOLD HERE

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

State of South Carolina

CERTIFICATE NUMBER

— —

MO. DAY YR.
REGISTRATION DATE

SIGNATURE OF ELECTOR

ATTEST

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION

of _____ COUNTY

Detach This Stub Here and Discard

Date of Birth _____ Occupation _____

MO. DAY YR.

Place of Birth

CITY | COUNTY | STATE

CODES

COUNTY	CITY	TOWNSHIP	PRECINCT

Figure #2

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR FURTHER STUDY, DISCUSSION AND PRACTICE

1. Make a copy of the Application for Registration form in current use. Ask the students to study it carefully to determine if there are parts in conflict with present laws. List those which are no longer valid.

2. Ascertain how many students will be eligible to vote in the next election. (This includes those who are now eighteen or older plus those who will become eighteen years old prior to the election.) Let each of those who will reach eighteen prior to the election report in writing or orally as to the procedure one must follow to register to vote. Or set up a mock registration.

3. Arrange for a member of the County Board of Registration to come to your school and actually register all eligible students. Have your students invite other eligible non-registered members of the community to participate in this special registration.

PRIMARY, MUNICIPAL AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

Facts to Discuss

Naturally the primary or "first" elections take place prior to the General Election in most states. Some few states nominate by the convention method. It is felt by those having the primary that if there were no primaries held there would be so many candidates for office that the voters would be in a complete state of bewilderment in making choices. Actually a primary may be termed a "party" or "within the party" election. The parties help to narrow the field of candidates throwing their support to those they feel will most likely win in the General Election. This, of course, is true in theory, but there may be some practical qualifications.

In most states of the southeast, until the last fifteen years the candidate of the Democratic party who won nomination in the primary election was almost assured of winning the General Election. With the advent of a strong two party system this will not always be true.

Sometimes it is necessary to have a run-off or second primary to determine the candidates who will represent the party in the general election. Again, laws vary from state to state. In South Carolina, if a candidate does not have a majority of the votes there must be a run-off election two weeks after the first primary.

Much is heard of presidential primaries within the year prior to the presidential elections. Usually several presidential aspirants enter state primaries. The results are only advisory in some states while in others it has some binding effect on delegates to the national nominating conventions. To some they serve as indicators of the strength of the would-be candidate. If he wins in a particular state it serves to put him in the national spotlight. The nomination of a presidential candidate is done only at the party's national convention.

There are two types of primaries: 1) the closed primary and 2) the open primary. In the closed primary, which now is the rule, it is "closed" to all except those who are members of the party.

Each municipal governing body may by ordinance establish time and place for general and special elections within its municipality (see 5-15-50, S.C. Code of Law).

1. Discuss with students the value presidential primaries in relation to the expenditure of time and money they involve.

2. What have been the effects of third parties on the two major parties in U.S. History?

V-DAY ARRIVES

Facts to Discuss

Now let's assume all eligible students are registered. V-Day arrives. Are they prepared to vote? Will they vote? Do they know where their polling precincts are located?

1. When one enters the polling precinct, the registration certificate is presented to one of the managers who checks the voter's name with the list of registered voters prepared by the State Election Commission and delivered before the election to the board of registration.

2. A poll list is also maintained and has the heading - "Names of Voters." He must now sign his name on the poll list. However, if perchance he should have a temporary or permanent physical disability, he could make his mark with the assistance of one of the managers. His signature on the poll list is checked with that on the registration certificate. If all checks correctly and his right to vote is not otherwise challenged, he is now ready to take the oath required for the election. The oath affirms that he is qualified to vote in this election, according to the laws and Constitution of this state, and that he has not voted during this election. This oath normally is incorporated as part of the poll list so that a signing of the list constitutes taking the oath.

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A mechanically operated model or a portion of the machine shall be provided for the instruction of all voters. It must be on the table of one of the managers or some other place accessible to the voters. Each voter, if he desires, before entering the booth, must be instructed on the use of the model and given an opportunity to operate it.

As is required in the traditional booth, all voting machines shall be arranged and equipped to insure complete privacy and secrecy of the ballot.

3. The voter is now presented with a ballot (see Figure #3 or #4) He goes immediately to an empty booth and marks his ballot. Then he folds it so as to leave the remaining stub attached so that it can be seen and detached without unfolding and revealing his vote. One of the managers detaches and retains the stub, and the voter deposits the folded ballot in the ballot box.

   State law requires there shall be at least one election booth for every two hundred and fifty registered voters. The material and dimensions are also specified; they stipulate that a curtain hang from the top front to within three feet of the floor.

   Only one voter may enter the booth at a time, and no one is allowed to speak to a voter while he is in the booth marking his ballot. However, a voter can have another person in the booth to assist him if he is either unable to read or write or physically incapacitated to prepare the ballot.

   One may not take more than five minutes in the voting booth if paper ballots are used. If voting machines are used, he may stay only three minutes.

4. One must vote between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Polls must be kept open without intermission. An exception has been made in the case of primary elections where the county executive committee of a party may close a poll at an earlier hour; also, in Lancaster County, the polls under certain conditions can remain open as late as 8:00 p.m. in any type of election.

No.

Official Ballot, General Election

SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 4, 1980

Precinct _____

Initials of Issuing Officer

Official Ballot, General Election

SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 4, 1980

Precinct _____

INSTRUCTIONS—To vote a straight party ticket, make a cross (X) in the circle (O) under the name of your party. Nothing further need or should be done. To vote a mixed ticket, or in other words for candidates of different parties, omit making a cross (X) mark in the party circle at the top and make a cross (X) mark in the voting square ☐ opposite the name of each candidate on the ballot for whom you wish to vote. If you wish to vote for a candidate not on any ticket, write or place the name of such candidate on your ticket opposite the name of the office. Before leaving the booth, fold the ballot so that the initials of the manager may be seen on the outside.

Office	Petition ○	Independent ○	Democrat ○	Republican ○	Libertarian ○	Write-In
	John B. Anderson PRESIDENT Patrick J. Lucey VICE-PRESIDENT	John R. Rarick PRESIDENT Eileen M. Shearer VICE-PRESIDENT	Jimmy Carter PRESIDENT Walter F. Mondale VICE-PRESIDENT	Ronald Reagan PRESIDENT George Bush VICE-PRESIDENT	Edward Clark PRESIDENT David Koch VICE-PRESIDENT	
Presidential and Vice-Presidential Electors	☐ Seward H. Bowers ☐ W. E. Gene Carpenter ☐ Angella Fifield ☐ Eunice O. Holland ☐ Carolyn Johnson ☐ Douglas Nelson ☐ Steven Rast ☐ Nancy Sharkey	☐ Jessie Marie Truett ☐ Betty Kemmerlin ☐ Lois Muckenfuss ☐ Don R. Cole ☐ Randy Taylor ☐ Elizabeth Hough ☐ John O'Neal ☐ Harry Lee Truett	☐ Robert McNair ☐ Nell Taylor ☐ Louise Hill ☐ Marianna Davis ☐ Debbie Dorn Pracht ☐ E. P. Riley ☐ Tom S. Gettys ☐ R. N. Beck	☐ James B. Edwards ☐ M. Gay Suber ☐ Beverly J. Gosnell ☐ Raymon R. Finch, Jr. ☐ Constance D. Armitage ☐ John Coursan ☐ Weston Adams ☐ Harry S. Dent	☐ Wendell Bettis ☐ Martha Blackwell ☐ Robert Budnek ☐ Betty Budnek ☐ Sloan Crayton ☐ Ronald O. Holland ☐ William Gary Johnson ☐ Deborah Muller	

Figure #3

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Official Ballot, General Election

ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 7, 1978

Precinct_____

No.

Initials of Issuing Officer

Official Ballot, General Election

ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 7, 1978

Precinct_____

INSTRUCTIONS—To vote a straight party ticket, make a cross (X) in the circle (O) under the name of your party. Nothing further need or should be done. To vote a mixed ticket, or in other words for candidates of different parties, omit making a cross (X) mark in the party circle at the top and make a cross (X) in the voting square ☐ opposite the name of each candidate on the ballot for whom you wish to vote. If you wish to vote for a candidate not on any ticket, write or place the name of such candidate on your ticket opposite the name of the office. Before leaving the booth, fold the ballot so that the initials of the manager may be seen on the outside.

Names of Offices	Republican O	Independent O	Democrat O	Write-In
STATE Governor	☐ Ed Young	☐ Jody Reynolds	☐ Dick Riley	
Lieutenant Governor	☐ John Stroud	☐ John Wessinger	☐ Nancy Stevenson	
Secretary of State	☐ J. Wesley Drawdy		☐ John T. Campbell	
State Treasurer			☐ Grady L. Patterson	
Attorney General			☐ Daniel R. McLeod	
Comptroller General			☐ Earle E. Morris, Jr.	
State Superintendent of Education	☐ Roger Kirk		☐ Charlie G. Williams	
Adjutant General	☐ Walter D. Everhart	☐ P. C. Dillingham	☐ Eston Marchant	
Commissioner of Agriculture	☐ Bryan Patrick		☐ Henry G. Young	
CONGRESSIONAL U. S. Senator	☐ Strom Thurmond		☐ Charles D. Ravenel	
Representative in Congress District 2	☐ Floyd Spence		☐ Jack Bass	

Figure #4

"But," your students may say, "all we have at our polling place are voting machines. What do we do?"

If voting machines are used in any or all precincts, state law permits demonstrations with voting machines for instruction of voters. Electoral boards or commissioners of elections may designate the time and place for showing the proper use of the voting machine. The voting machine will contain sample ballots, showing the names of candidates to be voted for at the next election. However, the machine may not be used for demonstration purposes if it has been prepared and sealed for use in an election.

The voting machine ballot is different from the paper ballot used in the booth where one marks his choices with a pencil. The commissioners or electoral boards are to furnish two sample ballots for instructional purposes. They are to be arranged in the form of a diagram of the entire front of the voting machine as it will appear after the official ballots are arranged in the machine for voting on election day.

Several counties in our state now use vote recorders on which a voter casts his ballot. This system of voting is commonly referred to as punch card voting or "votomatic" voting. The ballot cards voted at the election are counted and the vote totals tallied by computer.

Even if the polling place has a voting machine the voter may still be issued separate paper ballots for constitutional amendments where it is impossible to place the amendments on the machine due to lack of space.

The purposes of the secret or Australian ballot are retained whether voting is by machine or marking on paper ballots in the traditional booth. In the privacy of the booth one is free to vote as he pleases without having his choice subjected to pressure from any individual or group. Before long he will know whether his candidates have met with victory or defeat. Some of the issues may be decided. Before too long he will know if the winner keeps or breaks his promises. "The people have spoken." This is a trite saying. Essentially it is true - but all too few have participated. What about your students?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR FURTHER STUDY, DISCUSSION AND PRACTICE

1. A committee of students from your class could make arrangements with the county election commissioners to have a demonstration of the voting machine or vote recorder well in advance of the primary election.

2. Let students debate the advantages and disadvantages of the electoral college as opposed to selection of the President solely through a popular vote.

THE ABSENTEE BALLOT

COLLEGE STUDENTS?
ARMED SERVICES?
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS?
PHYSICALLY DISABLED?

Facts to Discuss

Some of your students may say: "I'll be away at college at election time." "May I vote, and where and how?" "Will mine be an absentee ballot?"

Probably no one issue with regard to recent elections is as controversial as the questions arising concerning the college student's vote, the determination of residence, and whether it is to be counted as an absentee ballot or as the vote of a citizen in the community where the college is located.

During registration, a student may properly be asked by the registration board if he is registered to vote in another county. Where do his parents live? What is his place of residence as shown upon the college records? Military records? Insurance records? Driver's license? Other documents? (1963-64 Ops. Atty. Gen., No. 1729, p. 216).

A student should particularly be asked if he intends to make the college area his permanent home. Has he abandoned any intention of returning to his parental home? (1963-64 Ops. Atty. Gen., No. 1729, p. 216).

A student must register in the prescribed time limit as defined for all citizens. There are no exceptions.

But he may ask: "Where do I register?"

1. Normally a student registers in the county of his residence. According to interpretation at present as seen on the **Absentee Registration For The Election To Be Held,** "The term 'students' means all persons residing outside of the counties of their respective residence, enrolled in an institution of higher learning and who possess a registration certificate under the provisions of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1962, as amended."

2. There may be a difference, however, in the case of students, minors (those under twenty-one) or non-minors, who live at the college or the college community with the intention of abandoning their former "residence" or "domicile." In other words, such students intend to remain permanently or for an indefinite length of time in the college community. The office of the Attorney General and the courts have favored the interpretation that each case must be determined on the basis of the facts and circumstances. If the student feels that he can qualify for registration in his college community, application may be made to the local board.

   The thing to remember also is that the decisions of the local board are usually binding.

"All right," the student may ask, "but when and how do I qualify for the absentee ballot? May I register by mail?"

The following persons are eligible to register by the absentee method.

a. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

b. Members of the Merchant Marine of the United States.

c. Persons serving with the American Red Cross or with the United Service Organizations who are attached to and are serving with the Armed Forces of the United States outside of the counties of their respective residences.

d. Members or employees of any department of the United States government serving overseas.

e. Students residing outside of the counties of their respective residences who are enrolled in an institution of higher learning.

f. Persons whose employment is out of state.

g. The spouse and dependents residing with any of the above categories a-f.

h. Persons physically disabled due to injury or illness.

(Note to teacher: Any of the above categories must satisfy the normal voter registration requirements.)

Any of the above specific persons or any relative or friend of that person may at any time request a registration form from The County Board of Registration. When this request is made, the name, home address and absentee mailing address must be furnished to the board. (Section 23-445 of South Carolina Code of Law).

The application for absentee voter registration must be completed and returned to the Board of Voter Registration at least 30 days prior to the election (see Figures #5 and #6).

Absentee voter registration is valid for one calendar year only. A person must reapply each year if he wishes to keep his absentee registration active.

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The application for Absentee Voter Registration must be completed and returned to The Board of Voter Registration at least 30 days prior to the election (see figures #5 and #6).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Absentee Registration For The Election To Be Held

_____ 19 _____

_____ County No.: _____

Read Carefully The Instructions Printed on The Reverse Side Hereof Before Filling In This Form:

I hereby swear (or affirm) that:

(1) My full name is:

_____

(2) I am a citizen of the United States and of the State of South Carolina.

(3) The date of my birth was: _____

(4) I am not disqualified from voting because of a criminal offense or confined in any penal institution under the judgment of a court.

(5) I am (check appropriate blank)

(a) In the armed forces of the United States ☐

(b) In the Merchant Marine of the United States ☐

(c) serving with the American Red Cross or with the United Service Organization ☐ attached to and serving with the Armed Forces of the United States outside of the county of my residence in South Carolina ☐

(d) a member ( ), employee ( ) of the _____ _____ department of the United States Government serving overseas.

(e) a student ( ) residing outside of the county of my residence and enrolled in an institution of learning.

(f) a spouse ( ), dependent ( ) residing with any of the above.

(g) physically disabled due to illness or injury ( ).

(h) A person whose employment is out of state.

(i) A spouse ( ), dependent ( ) residing with a person whose employment is out of state.

(6) My home address in South Carolina is:

_____

_____

(7) My mailing address (address to which absentee ballot should be sent) is:

_____

_____

(8) My State House of Representatives District Number (if known) is: _____

(9) My Social Security No. _____

Signature of Applicant

_____

Figure #5

INSTRUCTIONS. This registration form must be filled out and returned, in the envelope accompanying it, to your county board of registration. All entries except your signature should be printed or typewritten.

You are required to sign the form.

Conviction of any of the following crimes disqualifies you from registering and voting: Burglary, arson, obtaining goods or money under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, robbery, bribery, adultery, bigamy, wife-beating, housebreaking, receiving stolen goods, breach of trust with fraudulent intent, fornication, sodomy, incest, assault with intent to ravish, larceny, murder, rape andany crime against the election laws. Such disqualification may be removed only by pardon.

Your registration by this form, if granted by your county board of registration, is valid only for the election to be held during this calendar year. For elections which are held in subsequent calendar years, you must be registered again.

In order to be registered, this form must reach your county board of registration not later than thirty days before the election.

Figure #6

ABSENTEE VOTING

Facts to Discuss

1. The following people are eligible to receive Absentee Ballots.

   a. All persons eligible for absentee voter registration.

   b. Electors with a death or funeral in the family within a three day period prior to the election.

   c. Professions of ministry, teaching and medicine.

   d. Persons on vacation.

   e. A voter whose employment takes him out of his county residence for that day.

Any qualified elector in any of the above categories may receive absentee ballots by submitting a proper request to the County Election Commission (see figures #7 and #8). This request must be made no earlier than forty-five days prior to noon three days before the election. Any elector can apply in person up until 5:00 p.m. the day preceding the election for an absentee ballot. (Section 7-15-330, of South Carolina Code of Laws.)

2. "Will the absentee ballot be automatically mailed to a voter who is a student or member of the Armed Forces?"

A student must submit to the registration board or party chairman or to the State Election Commission a request for ballot with sworn statements and proof that he or she is currently enrolled as a student. Members of the Armed Forces will receive absentee ballots automatically.

When the absentee ballot is requested, the county committee or commissioners of election must mail to each absentee registrant in one envelope (a) a copy of the ballot for the pending election; (b) a copy of the oath which must be signed by each registrant; (c) printed instructions for the marking, folding, and return of each ballot and as to the signing and return of the oath; (d) a return addressed envelope for the return of the ballots and the oath; and (e) any additional information or instructions necessary.

3. "I have my absentee ballot. When must I mark it, mail it, and when must it be received by the commissioners of election in order to be counted?

An "absentee ballot" vote must be received on or before the day of election, but no later than 7:00 p.m. of election day. This means that an absentee voter may be voting days or even a week or two in advance of the election. No envelope may be opened at the absentee ballot counting precinct until the polls close on election day. To guarantee that the absentee vote will count, 1) make sure that one is properly registered; 2) request the ballot well in advance of the election; and 3) return it with the oath properly witnessed so that it arrives at the polling precinct on time.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT
To The Commissioners of Election:

_____(County)

I hereby apply for an absentee ballot and request that I be permitted to vote in the election to be held

on the _____day of_____,19____

I am a qualified Elector and am registered to vote

in the_____precinct of_____

county. My Registration Certificate Number is

_____. My State House of Representatives District Number (if known) is_____.

I hereby swear or affirm, UNDER PENALTY OF LAW, that I am eligible to vote by absentee ballot under the provisions of the following category:

(READ CAREFULLY INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE)
(Check Appropriate Box)

- ☐ 1. Students, their spouses and dependents, residing with them. (The term 'students' shall mean all persons residing outside of the counties of their respective residences, enrolled in an institution of learning.)
- ☐ 2. Armed Forces, Merchant Marine, their spouses and dependents residing with them.
- ☐ 3. Persons serving with the American Red Cross or with the United Service Organizations who are attached to and serving with the Armed Forces of the United States, their spouses and dependents residing with them.
- ☐ 4. Employment. (The term 'employment' means those persons who by virtue of their employment obligations are unable to vote in person).
- ☐ 5. Physically disabled persons. (The term 'physically disabled persons' shall mean a person who, because of injury or illness, cannot be present in person at his voting place on election day, whether physically present inside or outside his county of residence.)
- ☐ 6. Governmental employees, their spouses and dependents residing with them, who are out of county of residence on Election Day
- ☐ 7. Death in family, or attending funeral within a three day period of election.
- ☐ 8. Professions of ministry, teaching, medical.
- ☐ 9. Persons on vacation.

I will be absent from my county because of_____

_____. (Specify reason by reference to category by number of item checked above or in the case of item 5 state that person concerned is in that category.)

Signature _____

Address _____

_____

Social Security or I.D. No. _____

Figure #7

INSTRUCTIONS

In order to vote an absentee ballot, all persons except physically disabled must be absent from their county of residence on election day. All absentee voters can apply for their ballot by sending this form to the Election Commission or political party official via the mail or other delivery except persons who will be absent for reason of employment; they must apply for their absentee ballot in person prior to election day.

Important - This application must be submitted not earlier than forty-five (45) days prior to the election day or not later than noon, three (3) days prior to the election day. Any applicant, however, can apply in person up until 5 o'clock PM the day preceding the election for an absentee ballot.

Figure #8

(Note to teacher: Pursuant to Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970 - Public Law 91-285, certain provisions are made for requesting absentee registration and absentee ballot for Presidential and Vice-Presidential Electors. See Figures #9 and #10.)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Request for Absentee Registration and Absentee Ballot for Presidential and Vice-Presidential Electors

(Pursuant to Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970 — Public Law 91-285)
Please Read Instructions On Reverse Side Before Completing This Request

1. I am ☐, I am not ☐ presently registered to vote in South Carolina in _____ County and in _____ Precinct.
2. My registration certificate number is _____ _____ _____ (If Registered)
3. My permanent residence in South Carolina until thirty (30) days immediately prior to the date of the next election for President was ☐, will be ☐, _____ Street, in the city of _____ and in the County of _____
4. I was born: _____ (Month) _____ (Day) _____ (Year)
5. I will not be present in the voting precinct of my permanent residence on election day and will not be able to vote in person.
6. I request that an absentee ballot for Presidential and Vice-Presidential Electors be mailed to me at _____ (Street or Box No.) in the city of _____ State or Country of _____
7. If I am authorized to vote by absentee process in South Carolina, I shall not request or exercise voting privileges in any other state or the District of Columbia.

_____ (Applicant's Signature)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 19____

_____ (Official Authorized to Administer Oaths)

_____ (Title of Officer)

Figure #9

INSTRUCTIONS

This request is valid only for absentee registration and absentee voting during the current calendar year for Presidential and Vice-Presidential Electors and does not entitle the applicant to register and vote for any other office—National, State or local. If you will have been a permanent resident of South Carolina for less than thirty (30) days immediately prior to the date of the next election for President and Vice-President you must register and vote in person or absentee in your former state or political subdivision of permanent residence in the United States.

If you are not already registered to vote in South Carolina, this request for absentee registration and absentee ballot must be received at least thirty days prior to the date of the next election for President and Vice-President. If you are presently registered to vote in South Carolina, this request for an absentee ballot must be received at least seven days prior to the date of the next election for President and Vice-President.

All entries on this form except your signature should be printed or typewritten.

You are required to sign the card in the presence of an officer authorized to administer oaths. The following officers are authorized to administer the oath required on this registration card: a notary public of any state of the United States; United States Consuls; your commanding officer; and other officers authorized by law to administer oaths.

Conviction of any of the following crimes disqualifies you from registering and voting: burglary, arson, obtaining goods or money under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, robbery, bribery, adultery, bigamy, wife-beating, housebreaking, receiving stolen goods, breach of trust with fraudulent intent, fornication, sodomy, incest, assault with intent to ravish, larceny, murder and rape, and any crime against the election laws. Such disqualification may be removed only by the pardon of the Governor.

Return this completed card to the Board of Registration in your county of permanent residence in South Carolina.

Figure #10

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR FURTHER STUDY, DISCUSSION AND PRACTICE

1. Ascertain how many of your students plan to enter college or attend special schools away from home. How will their procedure for registration and balloting be different from those who are staying home.?

2. Ascertain how many of your students will enter any branch of the Armed Services. How will they be able to register and vote?

THE WRITE-IN VOTE

Facts to Discuss

Some of your students may say: "Suppose I don't want to vote for a certain candidate or candidates on the election ballot. May I write in the name of someone else?"

Certainly, subject to the following regulations:

1. There is a blank column provided on every general election ballot. The voter must write the name of the write-in candidate on the ballot opposite the name of the office.

2. The vote must be in the voter's own handwriting or that of the authorized manager. The manager may assist the voter who is too physically disabled or unable to wirte.

3. Write-in votes are not permitted in primary elections.

"Do 'write-in' votes really count?"

The answer is that they do. Even though this does not occur often, in South Carolina and several other states prominent officials have been elected because of this right. (What prominent South Carolinian was elected by a write-in vote? To what office?)

Sometimes write-in votes are cast as protest votes. It may mean the voter is not satisfied with one or more of the slate of candidates and honestly believes his write-in candidate is the better qualified and that his name should be brought to the attention of the party officials and the people.

THUS FAR WE HAVE DEALT
PRIMARILY WITH THE
MECHANICS
OF VOTING
BUT NOW LET'S

PREPARE A RESPONSIBLE VOTE

Facts to Discuss

Responsible voters are prepared voters. They do not take their vote lightly. Neither do they take their candidates for granted by expecting them to be a "rubber stamp."

One has a right to question whether our voting has always been responsible. It must readily be admitted that sometimes it has not.

With the coming of Jacksonian Democracy in 1829 there were those who feared "rule by the mob." To those who were older and well situated, the very idea of permitting the "common man" to vote caused widespread fear for the safety of the republic which was then experiencing growing pains.

You are well aware of the fears expressed by some over the eighteen to twenty-one-year-olds securing the franchise. Indeed their votes may make the difference as to whether our democracy becomes stronger or weaker. No one will be so naive as to expect all weaknesses to be eliminated. When women were demonstrating for voting rights before the enactment of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, some of them said their vote would mean the "purifying of politics." This did not happen. Yet each amendment enacted thus far has given more strength to our democracy. A prepared vote should make it even stronger. Look at the growth of the concept as expressed through our principle of popular sovereignty.

There is a difference between sovereignty and popular sovereignty. Here is our record of regard for it in the United States Constitution.

Article I, Section 2 - provides for the popular election of members of the House of Representatives.

Amendment XVII (1913) - provides for the direct election of United States senators. (This amendment changed Article I, Section 3, Clause 1, which declared that the two senators from each state were to be chosen by the legislatures thereof.)

Article I, Section 4 - provides for legislation which sets times, places and manner of holding elections for members of House and Senate (State regulations must not conflict with Federal).

Article II, Section 1, Amendment 12 (1804) - provides for election of President and Vice-President by the Electoral College. In practicality, however, the real power to elect remains in the hands of the electorate.

Amendment XV - prohibits restrictions on suffrage because of race.

Amendment XIX - provides for women's suffrage.

Amendent XXIII - extends the right of suffrage in Presidential elections to citizens of the District of Columbia.

Amendment XXIV - rejects as illegal the poll tax as a requirement in the election of Federal officials.

Amendment XXVI - extends the franchise to eighteen-year-olds.

Voting Rights Act of 1965 - a landmark law passed by Congress concerning voting rights of citizens.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR FURTHER STUDY, DISCUSSION AND PRACTICE

1. Let the students study the State Constitution to determine what laws have been made regarding the right to vote or not vote.

2. Let the students compare the S.C. Constitution with the U.S. Constitution regarding popular sovereignty.

3. The earlier wording of the Voter Registration application reads:

   (a) "I have never been convicted of any of the following crimes: Burglary, arson, obtaining goods or money under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, robbery, bribery, aduitery, bigamy, wife-beating, housebreaking, receiving stolen goods, breach of trust with fraudulent intent, fornication, sodomy, incest, assault with intent to ravish, larceny, murder, rape or crimes against the election laws; or

   (b) I have been legally pardoned for such conviction."

   How has the new wording expanded the voting franchise? Do your students agree with it?

4. Since we have historically continued to expand the voting franchise, where do students think it will expand next?

5. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is still an item of much discussion. How do your students feel about this Act?

Decision Making

For some time now, especially in the seventies, the new social studies trend emphasizes the principle of **decision making.** Students have studied in all their history texts and related subjects about the vast number of problems, their causes and effects. Students see them reflected daily through the mass media. Now they will have a chance to contribute to the solution of these problems.

To have a prepared vote one should question, debate, disagree, agree and be willing to rethink

One of the first steps in a decision is to re-examine one's attitude toward the word "politics." To many it suggests corruption, bribery, deals, demagoguery, reactionary, etc. **Politics is actually the voice of the people or the process of government.** The fact is that our political system is no stronger or weaker than its electorate. It has been said also that a president is the reflection of his people. He is as strong or as weak as we permit him to be. A careful study of history shows this to be generally true.

Having examined their attitudes, students then should have a platform or standard by which they prepare to exercise their franchise. What kind of government do they want? What would they eliminate or strengthen? Let students examine the statements below to determine if they are acceptable to them. What does each statement imply?

Do you agree?

1. Our government should "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare," and protect the inalienable rights of its people.
2. All citizens should have a voice in their government.
3. There should be free access to knowledge guaranteed by the government.
4. The existence of a free press is a must.
5. Ours should be a government of law administered by legally constituted courts because they insure justice for all.
6. Separation of church and state is fundamental in a democracy.
7. An educated electorate will produce an effective self-government because they will know the issues and consider them rationally.
8. Equality of educational opportunity for all citizens is both just and desirable and should be guaranteed by the government.
9. The family is a basic cornerstone of our democracy.

10. The right to work, to train one's self for a productive vocation, is essential to social progress and self-satisfaction.

11. Economic well-being, private enterprise, the profit system, the right to own property and individual initiative are the basic ingredients of a thriving and sound democracy.

12. Government should help those who are unable to help themselves and guarantee to the aging at least a guaranteed annual income equal to the cost of living and an adequate health insurance plan which protects them in times of illness and continuing disability.

13 Art, music, drama, crafts, classical and contemporary, should be considered as a significant part of our culture. The government has a responsibility to promote them.

14. Violence should be rejected as a means of solving problems at the local, state, national, and international levels.

15. Greater controls should exist to assure a healthy and clean environment and the conservation of our natural resources.

Students will be able to add other value statements.

PRACTICE "FOR REAL"

The football team which neither scrimmages nor plays an exhibition game will never be prepared for the thrill of the real contest. Touch football won't do. The "act of voting" is one which can be enlivened and made more attractive by a better informed electorate. Therefore, have your students participate the following activities:

1. Let local, regional, and social candidates of political parties appear before the combined twelfth grade classes to state their platforms. The assembly thus becomes the "stump." Following all speeches or debates, let representative students interview candidates.

2. Let students form their own campaign organization for a candidate who is running for reelection to a public office. The students need to structure the organization, develop a finance plan, develop a strategy for their candidate's reelection and develop campaign ads for television and newspapers.

3. As election day approaches, take advantage of the state law which permits instruction in the use of voting machines and vote recorders if they are used in your area. Often the polling place is in a school. Election officials should be contacted well in advance before the machines and vote recorders are set for the real election. If machines cannot be set up at your school, election officials may come or arrange for demonstrators, i.e., miniatures of the machine with those who instruct in their use. Better still, when the real election comes, teachers should accompany small groups to observe the real act of voting. Naturally this is arranged in advance with poll managers who may, without interruption of their election duties, explain the election processes.

4. Have students write an acceptance speech on being nominated for an office of their choice. Before the election, stage a party convention, and follow with campaigning, registration and voting according to the instructions as outlined in the first part of this booklet.

5. It may not be possible for candidates to appear in the school general assembly. If your school has a video camera perhaps you could get them to come for an interview before the camera conducted by a panel of students. You could then use the tape as the basis for evaluation of the candidates. While this practice is highly commendable, nothing can substitute for the live or face to face appearance.

6. Let students conduct three straw polls on candidates and issues of an up-coming election. The first poll should be a month before the election. The second should be a week before the election. The final poll should be the day before the election. Results could then be studied and compared to the election returns.

7. Let students list the national and/or state problems which they consider most deserving of attention and offer concrete suggestions for solving them.

8. Let students list those things which they feel a class or community should do for itself without calling for the expenditure of tax monies! For instance, a clean-up campaign.

9. Let students take a look at selected articles of interest in our present State Constitution. What changes would they make?

10. What other posts of significance do students believe should be represented in the President's Cabinet?

11. Let students conduct a "Student Poll" in your immediate community on campaign issues affecting your community, county, state or nation.

12. Set up a model congress or legislature. Prepare and introduce a bill which will solve a problem, given the benefit of adequate study and research.

13. Let students write an inauguration speech on being elected Governor of South Carolina, or President of the United States.

14. Let students determine the time and location of their party's precinct meeting by careful study of legal and public notices appearing in your county or daily newspaper. Such notices appear two weeks in advance of the meeting which must take place every even year on the fourth Saturday in February. Encourage the students to become actively involved in their party.

15. Tell students they have been elected as a delegate to the County Covention which meets every year on the first Monday in March. There is one delegate for every twenty-five votes cast (Democratic or Republican) in the first primary during the last general election year. Let them determine their role.

16. Tell students they have been elected as a delegate or half delegate to the State Convention which also must meet in March of even years in Columbia - which date must be set ten days in advance by the State Executive Committee. Let them suppose they are placed in charge of fund raising for their party. Let them prepare a fund raising plan to help get their candidates elected.

17. Let students imagine they are interested in becoming a nominee of one of the political parties in South Carolina for either a city, county or state office. Have them outline the steps necessary to secure the nomination, being careful to note how it differs from procedures of the other parties.

18. Tell students, "You, however, do not wish to secure the nomination from any one of the recognized political parties. You are interested in running as an independent but have no party machinery of significance. How can you become an independent candidate?" Discuss.

19. Have students describe a non-partisan race which is of great importance but which does not require party machinery. Some can announce themselves as candidates and state what improvements they would advocate and try to effect.

20. Conduct a primary election for members of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the General Assembly of South Carolina. Assume there are ten House and three Senate Seats but that there are eighteen candidates for the House and seven for the Senate. In the first primary two House candidates receive a majority of the votes. How many candidates may run in the second primary? In the Senate race, one member received a majority of the votes. How many may run in the second primary? When is one declared elected in a second primary? When is a third primary ordered?

REMEMBER

Voting is a privilege that we have and should exercise to the fullest extent. A well informed electorate should not only understand the issues but also participate in the process of elections in the United States. As former President Dwight D. Eisenhower said:

> "The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter."

To that purpose this publication has been written.